**Summary of Water Conditions**
**February 1, 2005 (see below for updates)**

On February 1, statewide water conditions as a percent of average were as follows: precipitation, water year to date, 150%; runoff, water year to date, 70%; reservoir storage, 100%. The water supply outlook for most of California at this time is quite favorable due to the heaviest snowpack on this date in 10 years. However, statistically, there is still a wide range of possible outcomes of the water supply season, since about 40 percent of the rainy season is left. The productivity of the last two rainy two months can have a large influence on water supply.

Snowpack water content statewide is at 165 percent of average, compared to 115 percent last year. The pack ranges from twice average in the southern Sierra to about 125 percent on the North Coast. The pack overall is 100 percent of the April 1 average, which is the normal date of maximum accumulation. Percentages are highest in the lower elevation snow zone, which may lead to some early runoff this year.

Precipitation from October through January 31 was about 150 percent of average, much more than the 85 percent last year. Southern California's percentages are even higher. The cumulative total since October is around 115% of average in the Sacramento River region, 162% in the San Joaquin River region, and 156% in the Tulare Lake Basin. The only dry area is the northeastern portion of the State, extending into the Klamath River basin in Oregon.

The cumulative Sacramento River region runoff since October 1 is 68% of average, compared to 76% a year ago. In contrast, the cumulative San Joaquin River region runoff since October 1 is 121% of average, compared to 45% a year ago. Forecasts of April through July runoff are substantially above average, especially in the southern Sierra and stand at 115 percent overall. The projected mean April-July basin runoff ranges from 138% of average in the southern Sierra Nevada (Kings) to 87% of average in the north (Sacramento River at Bend Bridge). As noted above, the upper Klamath River, at 55 percent, is the exception. Water year forecasts are also good at 100 percent of average, statewide. Reservoir storage is about 100 percent of average, about the same as last year. The gain in January was more than normal. Regional percentages range from 125 in the Central Coast to a low 25 percent in the North Lahontan region, due to low storage in the region's biggest reservoir, Lake Tahoe.

Long-range weather models forecast above average precipitation for Central and Southern California, including much of the Southwest, and drier-than-average conditions in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest this spring. Temperatures are forecast to be above normal for almost all of California and all of the Pacific Northwest. The current low snowpack and a long-range outlook for below-normal precipitation and above-normal temperatures this spring have placed the Pacific Northwest at enhanced risk for drought development, notwithstanding recent heavy rains in some areas. In February, record low and near record low snowpack measurements were reported at several sites from Washington and Oregon eastward through western Montana. Further south, recent precipitation has somewhat decreased the extent and severity of the long-term drought across much of the interior West and Southwest setting the stage for increased streamflow into reservoirs during the spring. However, some large reservoirs on the Colorado River will likely take a long time, perhaps several years with normal precipitation, before storage returns to normal.

**February 15, 2005**

By mid-month, forecast median April-July runoff ranged from 129% (Merced, San Joaquin, and Kings Rivers) to 82% (Feather River). This forecast is was an average of 8% from the February

1st forecast. The unimpaired runoff in the northern part of the state continued to track below normal and is currently running at about 50% of its February average.

**February 22, 2005**

This update includes the observed precipitation from February 1 through the 22nd. The projected median April-July runoff now ranges from 136% (Merced River) to 80% (Feather River). This forecast is up an average of 3% from the February 15th forecast, but overall down about 5% from February 1. The Northern Sierra 8-Station Index has gained 3.1" from February 1 to February 22, bringing the seasonal total up to 32.1", 97% of average for the date. This precipitation total amounts to about 39% of February's average and 64% of an average Water Year. The Unimpaired Runoff in the northern part of the state continues to track below normal and is currently running at about 50% of its February average, while many of the rivers in the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada continue to track at near or above normal rates

The latest NWS Climate Prediction Center long-range weather forecast maps at http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off_index.html suggest above normal temperatures statewide with above normal precipitation in Central to Southern California but dry throughout Northern California for the spring.

The next water supply forecast, for conditions on March 1, will be available by March 8. In general wet weather is expected, especially in Southern California, along with above average statewide temperatures for next week.